



Food Distribution in Dara-e-Souf

Darai Souf District of Samangan province was a self-sufficient in food production in recent years, but have been severely suffered from war and prevailing drought. It is consisted of several narrow valleys surrounded by hills and soewhere by steep mountains. It has limited irrigated land, but enough rain-fed land where could grow wheat, barely, sesame, melon and watermelon. It was for the first time that children death due to starvation was reported from Darai Souf last winter. In addition that CCA staff took vital role in food distribution in Darai Souf last winter, this time CCA survey team reached there in May/June 2000 to conduct need assessment survey.

They completed the survey in 136 villages. The survey result showed that 486 IDP households from other areas have put extra starvation load on local community. The survey also revealed that 70 % of irrigated land and 80 % of rain-fed harvest have been failed. As a whole, there is 5500 MT food deficit than last year harvest. Very shaking figure is that out of 2799 households 1922 of them, who have been seriously starved, have been using alfalfa, and wild plants as food to keep them survive. Since some of wild plants are uneatable toxic, therefore, food poison cases also have been reported.

According to this survey, 10000 households need to urgent food assistance. If we estimate the food need on the basis of 150 Kg wheat per seven-member family in three months, it becomes totally 3000 MT wheat to be distributed in two phases, 1500 MT each. And, if this amount couldn't be distributed before the onset of winter, which starts in December, there would be risk of mass migration of 7000 households to other provinces.

CCA informed WFP and UNOCHA about the status of food deficit in Darai Souf and proposed emergency food assistance project. Accordingly, 400 MT wheat and 7 MT high protein biscuit

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CCA Newsletter is published six times a year

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Drought

and

War

Destroy

Afghan

Society

While there is no clear sign of peace resettlement very soon in Afghanistan, the prevailing conflict and widely-spread drought are destroying the human infrastructures. Frontline fighting in Taluqan, Shamali, Laghman and Nengerhar further degraded the life of civilians. The very heavy face to face fighting between the Taliban and Northern Alliance fighters started from mid August in out-skirt of Taluqan city, displaced around 100000 people due to exchange of artillery ordnance and air bombing on Taluqan city and around villages. Majority of them had moved toward Rustaq district and Badakhshan, while these areas have badly suffered from the drought. On the other hand, Badakhshan is a natively food deficit area and always depend on Takhar's food production. No clear update news so far available about these IDPs to know where they have been settled, what they eat, what are their other basic needs, who provide assistance to them, and how?

The latest drought update news reveals that the magnitude of drought suffering in Ghor and Badgis prov-

inces and central Hazarajat highland is very high. 400 families from Ghor and Badgis have moved to Hirat. About 8000 people are in desperate need for shelter in Hirat city. 4 children so far died by drinking contaminated water. UN statistics shows that every day 30-40 drought-affected families are arriving in Hirat. These IDPs put pressure on Hirat's civilians in terms of food, shelter, etc.

Result of May/June need assessment survey in Dari Souf district conducted by CCA also alarms that 7000 families will leave Darai Souf for other places if they couldn't receive enough food before the onset of winter. And more suffering is prospected during coming winter and spring of 2001.

On the other hand, reports reflected in media and interview directly done with returnees, reveals that a big number of Afghan refugees are crossing the Afghan - Iran border under UNHCR repatriation programme. While they are so-called voluntary returning to their homeland, they are faced to drought - born problems, unemploy-

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Food Distribution ...

(CBS) was provided by WFP. UNOCHA bear the cash cost of the project and CCA team have taken part in distribution as well as conducting need assessment survey, previously done. Needy beneficiaries have been identified jointly by CCA team and community. The food was distributed by CCA team while representatives of WFP and UNOCHA were pre-

sent. 4000 MT wheat has been distributed by end of August through four distribution points to 2654 households, 150 Kg per household.

Assistance Impact:

1) Price of wheat was fallen down from 300,000 Afs per 7 Kg to 250,000 Afs.

2) The morale of the inhabitants of forgotten people of the steep mountainous parts of Hazarajat is strengthened whenever watching food convoys passing high passes, such as Mullah Yaqub pass (3100M), Unai pass (3200 M), Shatoo pass (3300M), and Sari Tal pass (3200 M) high, and even amazing and appreciating that they are crossing the minefield from Deh Bi-hood to Derzan Cheshma *

Human Rights Department

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CCA organized a five-day gender awareness workshop, 3-7 July for NGO workers in CCA head office in Peshawar. In this workshop 20 NGO workers from 9 INGO and Afghan NGOs were participated.

At the first day of the workshop, Dr. Amir Shah Hassanyar, Acting Director of CCA officially opened the workshop. After welcoming the participants, he highlighted the importance of enhancing gender awareness of NGO workers in considering gender equity into designing their development programmes.

Then Mr. A. Ghafoor Faizi, Head of the Training Department of CCA, explained the relation of gender to Islamic context and Afghan traditions. He briefed the participants with the objectives of the workshop, method of facilitating and timetable.

The whole workshop was facilitated by Ms. Aseela Wardak, Ms. Merzia Mina, Mr. Zaheer Nasir, and Mr. Faizi.

Workshop objectives

- Changing the attitude of both men and women that consider women inferior to men
- To identify the character and behavior of man and woman, biologically and socially developed
- Making an analysis of gender equity from point view of Islam and different traditions of Afghan civilians
- To consider addressing the development of gender equity in project design

Topics

- Expressing expectation from the workshop and discussing in groups
- The role and type of activities of man and woman
- Socially developed of man's superiority over woman and its impact on women
- Gender role
- Role analysis of men and women

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Participants of the Gender Awareness Workshop

A Brief Report From

Gender Awareness Workshop

Afghanistan's real culprit

(According to TheNews July 2000)

Afghanistan's endemic fighting has reerupted. On the first day of the recurrence, it killed 30 civilians in the north of Kabul forcing many more to leave their homes to escape the raging battle between the Taliban and the forces of Ahmad Shah Masood. Artillery duels and aircraft bombing took place with some intervals of quiet on the frontlines. With the renewal of fighting, the fear of the summer war, expressed by most Afghanistan watchers and aid workers, have come true, scuttling completely the already slowly sinking hopes of a peaceful settlement of the chronic conflict.

Earlier, in the wake of the Taliban control of Kabul, such bouts of fighting had a military logic of sorts to them. The Taliban wanted to complete their control of Afghanistan by running over the forces of Ahmad Shah Masood, the last bastion of resistance to their rule. And the northern Alliance, at that time still intact, wanted to keep the Taliban at bay in the hope that one day, with the help of their external bankers, it will be able to drive them out of Kabul. But years of strife, fighting and killing has shown that both the parties are incapable of achieving their desired strategic goals.

Unless there is a major shift in the balance of support-both internal as well external-for either of them, they will at best retain their parts of Afghanistan virtually dividing it into two zones of influence.

This fact has rendered all instances of renewal of fighting strategically futile and diplomatically mindless. Worse, these have become sheer affliction for the Afghan population which is caught in the crossfire, and sees the remains of its painful existence blown away by the actions of a leadership that is blind to reason. There has been much hue and cry over external interference in Afghanistan's affairs which is perpetuating its war. That however is only partly justified. The prime blame has to go to Afghanistan's leaders whose deadly greed for territory has pushed the whole country to ruination. They are the ones who have to be held responsible for disallowing any workable solution to emerge from the chaos that Afghanistan has become. All sincere efforts to help Afghanistan will fall flat even before taking off as long as the arbiters of the country's fate-the Taliban and the Northern forces-do not realize the futility of their ambitions.*

Women's Work with NGOs is Against the Policy of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

ACBAR office received letter No. 696 dated 4/4/1421 of the Ministry of Planning of IEA which is quoted below

"To: ACBAR Office

Based on the ministers' decisions at the ministers' council none of the national and international NGOs could employ female staff on official or non-official job, as the action is against the policy of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

Therefore, you are expected to pass on the decision of ministers' council of IEA to all national and international NGOs.

For further information the authorized representatives of NGOs would refer to HQ of the Planning Ministry on Monday, July10,2000.

Regards,

Mawlawi Abdul Tawab Qazizada
Foreign Relation Department
Director"

It should be mentioned that this decision would be a great constraint for all aid organizations, working in emergency relief operation for drought-striker people. It further marginalises women and children.

The Taliban also forcibly terminated all female employees of the governmental organizations few months ago.*

(Kabul July 21, 2000)

The ruling Taliban militia in Afghanistan has refused to change its edict regarding ban on local workingwomen as the talks between the militia leaders and the UN coordinator for Afghanistan have ended in fiasco.

UN envoy Eric de Mul expressed deep disappointment by saying that the Taliban had not softened their position from two weeks ago when they issued an edict ordering for eign aid agencies in Kabul to stop employing Afghan women.

"No more progress as far as I am concerned. I am disappointed, I had expected more," said de Mul as he prepared to leave for Pakistan after closed-door meetings with top Taliban officials.

He said he was still hopeful the United Nations would not have to cut back its operations here at a time when the war-torn country is facing its worst drought in 30 years.

"This is what all of us would like to avoid," he said.

De Mul said certain elements inside the movement were 'unhappy' that local women were working with international aid groups.

Several "terse days of discussion" had failed to convince the Taliban planning ministry to withdraw a letter to the UN and other

Taliban refuse to budge on working women issue

aid agencies banning them from employing Afghan women, he said.

The group of people who have been meeting with us are trying to convince others that it will be wise and useful" to allow women to work, he said, adding that more meeting were possible.

"I cannot look inside the kitchen," he said when asked if the Taliban religious police and justice ministries were behind the new edict.

It was de Mul's second round of talks with the Taliban in as many weeks amid fears that essential services provided by the plethora of aid groups here are in jeopardy.

A UN World Food Program (WFP) survey of families' nutritional needs is also on hold. Sources said they believed the WFP's plan to employ around 600 Afghan women, mostly ex-teachers, as surveyors for its bakery projects triggered the Taliban edict. WFP bakeries feed about 270,000 people every day here.

Taliban Deputy Health Minister Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanakzai said the health sector would not be affected by the ban.

"The policy of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" has always been positive on public health," Stanakzai said, adding that females could continue working in NGO supported projects for women at official hospitals and clinics.

UN sources said the world body's permanent female staff in the health sector and bakeries — a relatively small number — could keep working.

It was not however clear what would happen to hundreds of local women working with projects subcontracted by the UN to other agencies, they said.

The flurry of talks follow the arrest earlier this month of US aid worker Mary MacMakin and seven of her Afghan female staff from a relief agency providing job training to war widows.

The women were released last Wednesday, but MacMakin was deported the following day for alleged spying.

She said her only crime was to employ local women and help others earn a living. The US government described the spying charge as "ridiculous".*

Kabul Museum Reopens

after 8 Years

(From The News
Kabul August 21, 2000)

Omara Khan Masoodi, deputy head of the Kabul Museum, was delighted-for the first time in eight years a piece had been added to his looted collection and there were visitors in the bullet-scarred building.

The piece was a massive Bactrian inscription of the Kushan dynasty's Kanishka the Great, a 23 line engraving in Greek letters and Bactrian language from the 4th century which was discovered in 1993 and brought to the museum this year.

And the invited visitors included notables from the ruling Taliban militia as well as foreigners such as Nancy Dupree, a veteran campaigner for the protection of Afghanistan's precious heritage. They were attending the official

opening of a three-day exhibition to celebrate not only Afghanistan's 81st anniversary of independence, but its surviving cultural treasures.

The Kabul museum was set up in 1919 as one of the world's richest centres of historic relics but it lost most of its wealth during the civil war from 1992 to 1996. People here remember when the museum's doors were kicked open and looters helped themselves to the relics while the area was a deserted no man's land caught between rival mujahideen factions.

"We have lost up to 70 percent of our most valuable pieces," Khan said, adding that stolen relics have now mostly ended up in the United States, Europe and Japan through neighbouring Pakistan. The museum's ivory and coin

collections, as well as post-Islamic pieces like swords, sabers, dishes, and guns, were totally gone, he said. But he quietly boasted that the museum still had "tens of thousands pieces in safe stocks."

The war continues, but it is confined mostly to the northeast where the Taliban religious militia are battling pockets of resistance from forces loyal to ousted president Burhanuddin Rabbani. Anxious to boost their international image, the Taliban have put a high priority on protecting the country's heritage even if much of it has been left to decay in the countryside or has been ruined by two decades of war.

Several television and still cameras, including a film crew from the Taliban Radio-television station, were present at the opening function, and the bearded Taliban officials seemed only too happy to pose for the media.

There are no television broadcasts in the Taliban-held parts of Afghanistan as the Islamic militia has banned pictures of living things, deeming them idolatrous.

No Male Doctor is allowed to Examine Female Patients

An eyewitness reported that on 16th July 2000 Hisamuddin took his wife to the private clinic of Dr...in Hirat city. While a mobile group of the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention

of Vice (PVPV) inspectors were entering into the Dr...clinic to check up the observance of Shariat rule in health clinics saw that the doctor is examining a woman in front of another man.

The inspectors immediately started beating the doctor and the man as well. Hisamuddin while was being beaten, told to inspectors nervously that since the Taliban don't allow women to study

medicine, then how the people can find a female doctor to take female patients for treatment.

This mode of Hisamuddin's speaking embarrassed the inspectors, so they beat him more and more. The inspectors also ordered closing the clinic for one week as a punishment against the violation of Shariat Law.*

From the www.child-soldiers.org
GBR Communications

BAN

THE USE OF

CHILD SOLDIERS

Leaders, Ministers and government representatives attending the UN Millennium Summit will join in a special unveiling of a "Children's War Memorial" on Thursday, September 7, 2000 (23:30 p.m.).

The event is being organized by the NGO Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers in collaboration with UNICEF to commemorate the hundreds of thousands of child soldiers killed, wounded, missing or detained in recent conflicts and call for global action to stop the use of children as soldiers.

WHERE: The United Nation Children's Fund
3 UN Plaza
New York, NY

WHEN: Thursday 7
September 2000

Time: 12:30 pm

Countries represented will include Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Czech Republic, Ireland, Mali, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sri Lanka and Switzerland.

UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy, UN Special Representative on Children and

Armed Conflict, Olara A. Otunnu and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson will speak on the importance of international efforts to ban the use of child soldiers.

A former Khmer Roug child soldier from Cambodia, Loung Ung, will speak on behalf of child soldiers around the globe.

At the Millennium Summit, an estimated thirty-five governments will sign an Optional Protocol to the convention on the Rights of the Child banning the compulsory recruitment or use in armed conflict of children under the age of eighteen.

The Coalition has with the help of a local artist, we have constructed a special children's war memorial – this takes the form of two pillars, one the size of a child with an image of a child soldier, the other much larger listing the name, age and country of about 150 child soldiers killed, wounded, missing and detained

in more than 20 countries. The monument is made out of special aluminium, giving a shiny surface with the image screen printed onto it.

The Coalition to Stop the Use of child Soldiers was formed in May 1998. Its steering committee members currently include Amnesty International, Dfence for children International, Human Rights Watch, Jesuit Refugee Service, Quaker United Nations Office – Geneva, Radda Barnen for the International Save the children Alliance, terre des Hommes and World Vision International and several regional NGOs from Latin America, Africa and Asia.

*It should be mentioned that CCA is a member of Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers.**

China urges end to Afghan conflict

Chinese President Jiang Zemin urged Afghanistan's warring factions to end more than 20 years of bloodshed and start peace talks leading to the formation of a coalition government.

According to *The News* July 5, 2000, Jiang and Tajik President Imomali Rakhmonov discussed the Afghan conflict during talks which also touched on border issues, security and trade.

Jiang, on his first state visit to Tajikistan, said direct outside in-

tervention would not end the conflict but that the United Nations should take a leading role in trying to bring about peace.

"The Afghan problem must be solved by the Afghan people by means of peaceful talks and without outside intervention," Jiang said through an interpreter at the presidential palace in Dushanbe.

"China supports the United Nations talking a leading role in finding a political solution to the problem. The warring sides in Afghanistan must stop the blood-

shed and form a coalition government acceptable to both sides," he said.

The United Nations has so far failed to end fighting in Afghanistan, which borders Tajikistan and China.

Both countries are part of the so-called "six-plus-two" group uniting Afghanistan's six neighbours as well as the United States and Russia.

The group has been dogged by accusations of member states taking sides in the conflict by lending support either to the Taliban militia or the opposition alliance led by ethnic Tajik commander Ahmad Shah Masood.*

Taliban Welcome China's Remarks

(According to *The News Islamabad* July 8, 2000)

Taliban have welcomed and appreciated the remarks of Chinese President Jiang Zemin about Afghanistan terming it as a goodwill gesture of the Chinese leaders, reported the BBC.

Jiang Zemin had called on the Afghan factions to hold talks and find a negotiated settlement to the conflict at the time of the summit meeting of Shanghai-5 group, in Dushanbe. A statement by the Taliban Foreign Ministry, however, criticized other members of the Shanghai-5 for supporting their opponents.

Taliban also accused two members of the group, Russia and Tajikistan, of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, the charges always rejected by these two countries.

The Taliban statement said they want friendly relations with China and the Central Asian states.*

Former Afghan officials ask Taliban to revive national army

(*The News* July 7, 2000)

Former Afghan armed forces officers have asked the ruling Taliban to initiate steps to revive Afghanistan's national army.

In a meeting, the Afghan army men argued that the national army would be able to protect Afghanistan's independence and sovereignty and help end fighting in the country. Beside, they said, the revival of Afghanistan's national army would enable the Afghan refugees to return home and serve their country and assist in its reconstruction.

The organizing committee of the proposed Afghan National army in the said meeting stressed that revival of the national army was the only way to end bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Those who spoke at the meeting included former Afghan generals Marjan, Muhammad Munir Mangal, Muhibullah, brigadiers Ibadullah Talwar, Sadar Gul and Jameel.*

Japanese envoy concerned over Afghan fighting

(Islamabad July 8, 2000)

Japan expressed dismay at the eruption of fighting in Afghanistan and urged the warring faction to sit together and resolve the long-running problem peacefully.

"Japan is disappointed at the recent fighting and calls upon all warring sides to resume dialogue and find out a negotiated settlement of the conflict," Japanese Ambassador Sadaaki Numata said.

Mr. Numata was talking to New-man after he handed over a newly developed Japanese land-mine clearance machine to the United Nations Office Co-ordination Humanitarian Assistance (UNOCHA)

The Japanese envoy said Tokyo has talked to the representatives of the Afghan warring factions as

well as a representative of former Afghan monarch Zahir Shah as part of Japan's quest to encourage the Afghan groups to end hostilities in Afghanistan.

"The armed conflict raging in Afghanistan for more than twenty years has been of deep concern to Japan and other members of the international community," the Japanese envoy earlier told the ceremony.

He said the Afghan fighting is not only a major threat to peace and stability in the region but also has brought immeasurable suffering to the people of Afghanistan.

Mr. Numata said Japan has lent its constant support to the UN's efforts to bring about a peaceful solution of the conflict in Afghanistan. It has also actively extended humanitarian assistance to the Afghans totaling more than \$400 million through the UN agencies and other international and local organizations since 1979.

"One of the most disturbing aspects of the human tragedies unfolding in Afghanistan. Cambodia, Bosnia and other war born areas is the loss of lives and suf-

fering wrought by landmines on so many innocent people, including women and children," he regretted.

He said preventing and undoing the damages of this "devil's weapon". Is a challenge that the whole global community has to tackle in concert.

Japan became one of the original signatories to the Ottawa convention banning the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines in 1997.

In pursuit of the "Zero Victim Programme" that it announced, the Japanese government has been extending financial assistance for demining activities in the afflicted countries as well as assistance through NGOs in the areas of mine awareness education and victims' assistance.

Mr. Numata said recently, the severe drought has compounded the misery of the Afghans to alleviate this, the Japanese government decided last week to extend \$4.2 million for emergency relief in response to the emer-

(Continued on page 11)

Taliban Minister Terms Loya Jirga as US Ploy

(The News Peshawar July 9, 2000)

An Afghan minister has said the loya jirga idea was a "stunt" created by the United States to add to the trouble in Afghanistan.

In an interview with Peshawar-

based Pushto daily Qudratullah Jamal, Afghanistan minister for culture and guidance said the Afghans knew how sincere the US and other countries were with them. He said the Afghan people were also aware of Zahir Shah's capacity.

Jamal also criticized Radio Teheran for, what he called, negative reporting. According to him Radio

Tehran recently reported that two meetings in Nangarhar and Kunar have supported Zahir Shah's efforts for convening Loya Jirga.

The minister said the people of eastern Afghanistan were supporting Taliban because they had great love for Islamic Shariah.*

Taliban urge Annan to Check Landmine Supply

(Report from Vice of America, July 8, 2000)

Taliban have accused the opposition of using landmines and urged the UN to check the supply of landmines.

According to The News daily issue of Pakistan, Taliban's Foreign Minister Maulvi Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil, in a letter to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, said the rival countries were supplying landmines to their opponents.

He said it was against the Ottawa convention and added that the Taliban have stopped using landmines.*

Afghans Protest Against Killing of Three Persons

(The News August 10, 2000)

Afghan refugees residing in camps here blocked the Kohat by-pass road Pakistan, to protest against killing of three persons and missing of seven others, according to The News, witnesses said.

The Afghans living in the Ghamkol refugee camp were protesting against, the murder of Ataulah, Gul Wali and Janat, whose bodies were recovered from a nullah near the camp.

The protesters, witnesses said were demanding the arrest of the killers and recovery of the seven Afghans who went missing while returning from a Jirga in Darra Adamkhel. However, the political authorities neither denied nor confirmed that the Afghans were killed in the tribal territory.

Hospital sources in Kohat said that one Mir Wali has been rushed to Peshawar in critical condition, who is also believed to be victim of the shoot-out carried by unidentified assailants. The missing Afghans included Shafiq, Saida Gul, Nazir, Zrawar, Manogay, Ayub and Naeem Gul.

The bodies will be taken to Afghanistan for burial, the refugees said.

*

A Brief Report From . . .

(Continued from page 3)

- Special needs of women
- Gender analysis
- Violence against women
- Women rape and root-cause analysis
- Women's problem, their role in the society
- Gender role analysis
- Role and relation between man and women in the context of Islam and Afghans tradition

Methodology

The methodology of the workshop was explanation, group work and group presentation, and brainstorming, and view presentation

In the closing ceremony at the end of fifth day of the workshop, Dr. Hassanyar thanked the workshop facilitators and participants who actively took part. He also evaluated the workshop and focused on the importance of considering gender issue into development works and the responsibility

of participants in this regard.

Then Mr. Sayed Ahmad Mihran, Trainer of NPO/RRAA, on behalf of the participants thanked CCA for facilitating this workshop. He mentioned since Gender is a new concept, therefore, they are satisfied of what they learned from the workshop and now they feel considerable change in their attitude towards women and men, and they are also committed to observe the issue of gender equity within the family, Organization and society.

Dr. Hassanyar and other key figures of CCA awarded certificate to participants.*



Unified Curriculum for Afghan Schools Announced



(Peshawar August 5, 2000)

A unified curriculum designed by Nebraska Education Centre has been announced for all schools for Afghan refugees' children in the NWFP.

A press release by the Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB) said here Friday that the agreed curriculum would be taught to students in grade one to three in Afghan schools in the NWFP. "This is the final decision and has to be acted upon. No one is allowed to use any other curriculum in the schools," it said.

The press release said the unified curriculum was finalized by the ANCB's education committee headed by Syed Amir Tehsin. The committee held several meetings which were also attended by principals and representatives of educational institutions for Afghan children. It said different curricula presently being followed in these schools were discussed in these meeting and finally the curriculum of Nebraska Education Centre was selected as the most suitable. It added that the committee in future meetings would take decisions on adopting unified curriculum for

students in grades 4 to 12.

The ANCB, which is the umbrella body for 106 Afghan NGOs, said the decision to design a unified curriculum for Afghan schools in NWFP was taken as these educational institutions as well as students were facing great problems on this count.

The ANCB education committee also decided to begin the academic year in schools for Afghans in NWFP from September 1th.*

Japanese envoy concerned over ...

(Continued from page 9)

agency appeal made by UNOCHA.

"We attach high priority to Afghanistan in this regard. We have extended more than \$ 15 million for demining activities through the UNOCHA as well as \$6 million for assistance to landmine victims through the ICRC and various NGOs over the last ten years."

He said the Japanese made landmine clearance machine was obtained by the UNOCHA utilizing the funds contributed by Japan in response to the 1999 UN consolidated Appeal for Afghanistan last year. He

said the sister model of this machine has been experimented upon and has proved to be of great use in stepping up the demining operations in Cambodia.

He said Japan is coordinating efforts with the UNOCHA which is known for its success in clearing over the last ten years more than 1.3 million landmines and unexploded ordinance (UXO) at modest costs and with limited casualties.

Deputy Coordinator UNOCHA Antonio Donini said the current known area contaminated by landmines in Afghanistan is 715 sq km

spread throughout the country.

He said much of this is the land that could otherwise be used for productive economic and social purpose. He said in the year 2000, the Mine Action Programme aims to clear approximately 40 sq km of the area and 64 sq km of the former battle area. He said this machine would significantly speed up the mine clearance process.

He said Japan has shown its commitment to humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan since the inception of the UNOCHA.

He said the trucks, which the WFP utilizes for the delivery of food to vulnerable Afghans are also the result of a Japanese donation.*

UN Stops Demining in Afghan Province after Murders

According to *The News* August 9, the United Nations suspended demining operation in Afghanistan's Badghis area, and launched an inquiry into the murder of seven deminers there on the weekend, a UN statement said.

Unknown attackers gunned down the seven Afghans, who were working for OMAR, a local demining agency implementing UN projects, as they drove to the western city of Herat.

The UN statement said the workers with the Mine Action Programme in Afghanistan will suspend activities throughout the country to mourn the dead.

UN Humanitarian coordinator for Afghanistan Eric de Mul said the murders were tragic in one of world. He said: "these two OMAR teams were waving lives by teaching people how to avoid the dangers of mines, bombs, shells, mortars, and other unexploded ordnance which litter the country. It is doubly tragic that they lost their own lives while trying to save the lives of others.

UNOCHA recently announced that due to shortage of fund, has to cut down 50% budget of the demining agencies. The staff of the agencies, therefore, have to take two months unpaid leave.

An official source of Afghan Campaign to Ban Landmines (ACBL) said that the campaign will not be able to run its mine awareness programme throughout the country due to fund shortage, which can reduce the number of Landmines casualties. *

Afghan Woman Murderer Held

(July 18, 2000)

Police traced the murderer of an Afghan women who was found slaughtered in the green belt of 1-10/3.

According to *The Nation* July 18, following a tip-off, police booked one Qasim Khan, son of Habib Khan, a resident of Charsadda. The accused confessed of the murder of the woman and also her molestation. The autopsy report has also confirmed that the woman was sexually assaulted before murder.

The woman identified as Uzar Bibi wife of Shahnawaz had four children. Qasim killed the woman so that she could not raise hue and cry. The woman was reportedly cutting grass in the green belt and was alone when Qasim assaulted her. She had received severe injuries and was later shifted to PIMS where she breathed her last.*

Carrying Book is a Risk !

An eyewitness reported that the PVPV inspectors arrested two Afghan civilians On 26th July 2000 in Herat city, who were repatriated from Iran. The returnees whose hometown was in Gazni, dressed with trouser and short bearded were searched by the PVPV inspectors at the bus station in Sherkat-I-Pashm in Herat city. They were charged for carrying religious book related to Shiah Muslim (Minority religious Muslim sect in Afghanistan) and other books related to Iranian politics. The inspectors while seeking the returnees' luggage, blamed that these books pollute Muslim's belief. Although the returnees rationalized that they have bought these books for their own study and are never against the Taliban policy, but didn't effective.

The PVPV inspectors took the returnees with their 22 books to their headquarters in Herat city. The event was eyewitnesses by tens of drivers and passengers who were preparing to travel to Qandahar and Kabul.*

Retaliatory Execution

On 21st July 2000 a man convicted for a murdering case was retaliatory executed by one of the heir of the victim in Jalalabad, capital of Nengarhar province.

According to eyewitnesses. Mohammad Ashraf s/o Sayed Jalal around 35 had been arrested by police authorities in Jalalabad. He was accused for killing a woman eight months

ago. The court conjunction was read that M. Ashraf has killed a woman called Bibi Lalpora in his house on 12/12/99 in Jalalabad, but he was arrested several months after the event took place. In accordance with the court conjunction, Ashraf, resident of Gula-i-Araban of Laghman Province has killed Bibi lalpura who is from Jalalabad. Ashraf has confessed to his alleged crime.

When the court conjunction was read, a number of people were whispering among themselves that Ashraf is a mentally sick person, therefore he has easily confessed to his crime.

When the reading of the court conjunction finished, at the presence of thousands of civilians who were forcibly gathered in the sport stadium nearby Pul-i-Behsood, Mr. Mujtaba, the Judge asked one of her heir of the murdered woman to forgive M. Ashraf but he refused the request. Then the heir of the murdered opened fire on Ashraf by Klashin-kof machinegun. The body was then took to the public Hospital of Jalalabad. Radio Shariat broadcast said that Amirul Momineen Mullah Omar (The Taliban's Supreme leader) approved the sentence awarded by the Taliban Court.*

(Continued from page 2)

Drought and War ...

ment and other kinds of problems which are new to them.

Therefore, the war, drought, unemployment, women marginalization, poverty, and overshadowing of disappointment environment for peace revival bewildered people in taking decision for their life management.

We think that the forthcoming months up to December should be a critical period for UN and all aid agencies to launch their emergency food assistance plan to cool climate areas to ensure that the assistance is being reached to their areas, otherwise people will make them prepare to leave the area for survival before the snowfall. Then specialized agencies for agriculture services should also use their maximum potential for preparing and transporting seed for spring cultivation.*

(Continued from page 14)

More Afghan evade to ...

starting heroin and escaping the miseries of loss of dear and nears in the war. "I lost both my parents in the bombardment of Kabul and then I migrated to Peshawar. Here I didn't find a job and became depressed. One of my friends asked about my sadness and advised me to take heroin. He said it would make me forget all about my sadness and it did," the report quoted and addict as saying.

To a query why they continued to use heroin now, more of the addicts responded to prevent body pain. They main body pain reported during the survey were headache, cough, general body ache, stomachache, constipation, lack of appetite, sleeplessness, dryness of mouth and watery eyes.

More than half of the addicts though wanted to give it up, but due to lack of money, help and support to achieve this aim, they failed to do so. The UNDCP survey observed; "nearly two-third of all addicts reported feelings of being alienated and estranged from their family members and from the community. Their experiences of stigmatisation and social seclusion are likely to lead to strengthening of sub-cultural ties with their street friends and further reinforce the heroin use itself."*

UNDCP REPORT:

More Afghan evade to use of heroin to escape miseries

According to The News August 21, 2000

To evade miseries caused by interminable war in Afghanistan, hundreds of Afghan refugees in this metropolitan city have resorted to the use of heroin and are found lying in the streets, underneath bridges and at secluded places like graveyards, said a UNDCP report.

Earlier during 1998, an informal survey carried out by a drug treatment center in Peshawar had said that out of 1,892 heroin addicts in the city 829 were Afghan refugees. Due to family pressure and abhorrence of the general people, the survey said, 46% of the addicts are living on the streets, beneath bridges and at unspecified venues like graveyards, caves or by canals sides. These addicts have difficulties with outer family members who 'despised' or 'hated' them for being drug addict and even some have been thrown out of the family home or not being allowed to enter it.

Most of the street heroin addicts in NWFP and Balichistan are the survivors of a larger group member of which died from drug-related causes over the years. Reliable reports suggest that a significant number of street ad-

dicts in Peshawar die each year. But no statistical evidence was, however, available. The addicts, living on the streets, easily succumb either to intense cold in winter, sizzling heat in summer or accidents due to road traffic.

Moreover, due to the unsanitary and unhygienic living conditions, many of the street addicts are falling prey to drug-related infections and illness.

A survey conducted by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) cited that depression, sadness and unemployment are the main reasons for being falling prey to the white killer (heroin). It also counted the pressure or influence by friends, workmate or family members and ignorance of the addictive properties of heroin as the other reasons.

The survey says 70% of the street heroin addicts in Peshawar are illiterate, 50% are married and have children and 57% are unemployed.

The UNDCP survey team interviewed some 150 addicts living on various streets in the city. 73 out of 150 addicts said that they use heroin three times a day or more. However, the report confessed that there was no significant data of mixing of drug (pharmaceutical) with heroin to

enhance its effect, or to alleviate the withdrawal symptoms or other pains. Some of the respondents confessed to have injected heroin in combination with valium or segon, one of the brands names for the pentazocine.

The survey says pentazocine is widely used in Pakistan and available from pharmacies and other retail outlets without medical prescription, though it has been banned in several countries including England. Its prescription is now discouraged because of the extra stress it exerted on the heart and its tendency to create 'hallucinations and thought disturbances'.

The reasons why heroin was first used, the UNDCP survey revealed that 57% of respondents in Peshawar city reported that they were first introduced through peer pressure or influenced by friends, family members or workmate. Most of the addicts said to have been unaware of the drug they were trying heroin.

Sadness and depression, unemployment and 'for the fun' or 'out of curiosity' were stated to be other basic reasons for the starter. However, besides these stated reasons, there are also some other more complex reasons for

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Taliban Shave heads of Pak Soccer players

(The Nation July 18, 2000)

As if the harsh criticism for their disrespect to women rights was not enough, the Taliban Islamic Movement added yet another feather to its cap when it shaved heads of Pakistan soccer players for wearing "un-Islamic" dress during the game.

"All of a sudden, the Taliban soldiers raided the Kandahar stadium and arrested the players of the Pakistani junior soccer team while the game was in progress," said Abdul Qayyum, captain of the Young Afghan Club, Chaman.

Qayyum was in Kandahar at the head of the 17-member team on an official invitation to play friendly matches with the local teams in Kandahar. "Only five of the Pakistan players were able to escape while the rest were rounded up to shave their heads as punishment for wearing shorts during the game," he said.

The Quetta-based Abdul Qayyum said that all the arrested players were released by Taliban officials and were taken to the border with Balochistan to ensure their deportation. "This is double standard because no punishment was given to the local players who also had the same dress during the game," said Qayyum.*

Taliban Hang killer of Three Women

(The News August 28, 2000)

Taliban authorities publicly hanged a ruling militia soldier for allegedly killing three women and abducting another in Takhar province in northern Afghanistan state radio said here on Sunday.

Radio Shariat said the man identified as Najam, who belonged to the northern Farah province, was hanged in Qabr-e-Qazi district of Takhar on Saturday. "A man who had manipulated the pure name of Taliban and had recently killed three women and kidnapped another in Baharak region of Takhar was publicly hanged in Qabr-e-Qazi area," the broadcast said.

He was convicted by a Taliban military court and the sentence was approved by the militia's supreme leader Mulla Muhammad Omar, it said.*

14 Afghan children die of cholera

(The News August 29, 2000)

A serious outbreak of cholera has killed 14 children in the past two weeks in an embattled region of northern Afghanistan, health officials said Monday.

They said an epidemic had hit villages in Sar-e-Pul town and the remote Sozma Qala district in the northern province of Sar-e-Pul.

A senior official 8 cases have been reported in Bughawy, Balghaly and Adrang villages in Sar-e-Pkul. It is a matter of serious concern when there are deaths. The disease has also been reported in four villages in Sozma Qala district."

The WHO official added: "Seven children above five and seven others under five have died so far only in Sar-e-Pul town. The number can climb.

The ruling Taliban militia had said the epidemic had been brought under control with the help of the United Nations, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF, Doctors Without Borders) and local health officials.

In the past two weeks, 993 confirmed and suspected cholera cases were hospitalized, examined and treated in Sar-e-Pul, the Taliban's Shariat weekly reported.

The WHO official said the epidemic originated in the mountainous region of Sozma Qala which was difficult to access due to continuing skirmishes between the Taliban and the opposition forces.*

Afghan Shot Dead

(Peshawar July 21, 2000)

An Afghan national was gunned down by some unknown persons in Gulbahar area on Wednesday night.

According to police officials, the body of the deceased was found from Tuaeheed Colony in Gubahar area. The assassinated as Shahjehan son of Amir Jan resident of Kunar



CCA Announcement

CCA website (URL:<http://www.ccamata.com>) globally released on July 2000. It provides you with update news about the activities of CCA on human rights awareness, advocacy and education, socio-economic development, emergency situation and humanitarian assistance, and CCA profile. This newsletter also regularly appears on the page. *

Woman Kills Herself

An unidentified woman jumped into Kabul river and killed herself, witnesses said.

Witnesses said that a woman-veiled walked briskly towards the bridge over Kabul river at around 11:00 am. The woman stepped over the bridge and jumped into the river. She was wearing green dress but it was not known as to who she was and from where she belonged passer-by made no attempt to rescue the woman.

"We don't want to get involved in police investigations," said one of the passer-by. It should be mentioned that presently there is no water in the river due to drought. No further information is so far available.*

Burning Herself was Preferred Than to be Sold

Akram Maftuh a villager of Bander village of Shinwar district of Nangerhar Province said that a woman by the name of Derkhu d/o Polad Khan, wife of Shah Nawaz Khan burned herself on 12 July 2000. He said that she was in hot quarrel on family issue with her husband that lastly her husband said that he sell her and marry with another woman. This made Derkhu extremely furious that she couldn't control herself and went out of the home and threw herself in very hot flame (ing *Tandur* (Bread oven). Then very rapidly her scream raised out from inside the *tandur*. While her children found their mother being burnt, they strongly frightened and called elders to rescue her. Since she was severely burnt, she died after five minutes.

After two days the Taliban authorities became aware of this event and a number of them were delegated to the site, but couldn't arrest her husband or her husband's relative as perpetrator because the community didn't allow them to do so. The community has accepted the Taliban rule conditioning not to interfere to their internal affairs. They solve such crises according to their own tribal code.

Akram Maftuh also said that according to the tribal rule women rights are broadly violated, and this was an example of such violation.*

News Resources

- í *The News International*
- í *Sahaar daily*
- í *ACBAR News Summary*
- í *Afghanistan News Bulletin,*
- í *UN Assistance for Afghanistan, WEEKLY UPDATE*
- í *NGOs Circulations*

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